

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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CSBG Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Sacramento – Community Services & Development Department
700 North 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
February 13, 2008
Time: 10am – 2pm

Lunch – 12pm – 12:30pm

Call In Number – 1-888-447-7153 – pin number 5653559#

Approval of November 7, 2007 minutes (5 minutes)

Director's Report – Lloyd Throne (20 minutes)

CSD Partnerships – Helga Lemke (20 minutes)

Disaster Committee Report

Lois Carson and Tracy McBroom (20 minutes)

Santa Clara County Designation: Activity Update

Pamela Harrison (5 minutes)

“I'm Fired Up:” - California Emerging Technology Fund

Telecommunications Initiative – Shelly Hance (45 minutes)

CSD Website Update – Steve Wittman – (Lunch 12-12:30)

EITC Partnerships Panel - (90 minutes)

Karen Dickerson, State Dept. of Social Services

- **Tim Reese, Executive Director, Cal Neva Community Action Partnership**
- **Lois Carson, Executive Director, Community Action Partnership of Riverside**
- **Jenna Churchman, Community Action Marin**

Adjournment

Lloyd Throne called the meeting to order at 10am and roll was taken.

1. Roll Call

Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency
Associated Community Action Program
Association of California Community and Energy Services
Bay Area Poverty Resource Council
California Human Development Corporation
Cal-Nevada Community Action Partnership
Center for Employment Training
Central Coast Energy Services, Inc.
Central Valley Opportunity Center, Inc.
City of Oakland, Department of Human Services
Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action
Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc
Community Action Agency of San Mateo County, Inc
Community Action Partnership of Kern
Community Action Partnership of Orange County
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County
Community Design Center
County of Nevada Community Development Agency
Department of Community Action, County of Riverside
Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco, Inc.
Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County
Foothill Unity Center
Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission
Madera County Community Action Agency
Merced County Community Action Agency
Northern CA Indian Development Council, Inc.
Redwood Community Action Agency
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
San Benito County Department of Community Services & Workforce Development
Yolo County Department of Employment & Social Services

2. Director's Report

Lloyd Throne reported on the California general fund deficit and explained that the State is in a deficit of 14.5 billion dollars. Mr. Throne said the general fund budget cuts would have an effect on CSD's naturalization program. Mr. Throne also said that the department is 98% federally funded, but that the funding has remained relatively flat for six years while the costs of doing business has risen substantially. CSD is streamlining its expenditures, to achieve some administrative savings.

Mr. Throne reminded everyone that the Cal/Neva Conference will be held in San Francisco on April 16 – 18th. John Wagner, Director of Social Services, will be the guest speaker. The Director introduced John O'Keefe, the CSBG field representative from the bay area.

3. CSD Partnerships

Helga Lemke said that one of her primary goals is to expand opportunities for the network, and that a key strategy for making this happen is the development of partnerships with other state agencies and department. Building coalitions and collaborations is the hallmark of CSD grantees at the local level, but little of this collaboration has occurred at the state level. After asking for volunteers from the network, Helga has formed a task force to work with her on partnerships. The Partnerships Task Force has identified several goals for new relationships with other state departments: expanded CSD visibility, enhanced collaboration at the local level, new funding opportunities, and changes in administrative regulations which hinder the work of grantees. Helga gave examples of some of the different types of relationships she is pursuing. One, focused on similar clients and program goals, is with the Dept. of Social Services. John Wagner, the Director of that department, will be giving the keynote speech at the annual Cal Neva conference. At the request of DSS, CSD formed a community action panel which presented local examples of how community action agencies help families move out of poverty at a DSS sponsored conference on child abuse. Helga said that a DSS representative will be part of a panel later in the day on asset building/EITC coalitions. Helga is also facilitating a meeting with interested CSD grantees and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to pursue possible natural resource funding. Other appointments will be scheduled with the Dept. of Housing and Community Development, and the Employment and Training Panel.

4. Disaster Committee Report

Lois Carson from Riverside and Tracy McBroom from CSD reported on the Disaster Committee. They said that the disaster planning goal for 2008 was to focus on flooding, earthquakes and natural disasters. It was reported that the mass care and shelter division is looking at the State plan to see what gaps are there. The short comings in the State plan were recognized during the fires and OES was unable to get information regarding shelter to the victims. Lois said that San Bernardino had responded to the wildfires and a report on their work was being compiled and should be in by the end of February.

5. Santa Clara County Designation: Activity Update

The Final RFP for soliciting applications for a new community action agency in Santa Clara County was released on December 6, 2007 and will close on March 3, 2008. An evaluation panel will review the applications and provide a recommendation for the Director.

6. California Emerging Technology Fund

Shelly Hance reported on the telecommunication initiative. The California Emerging Technology Fund provided leadership statewide to minimize the Digital Divide by accelerating the deployment and adoption of broadband and other advance communication services to underserved communities and populations. CEFT views its work through the lens of venture philanthropy and therefore thinks of grants as investments with outcomes and impacts needed to achieve the social benefit as its return on investment. CETF embraces addressing five factors that contribute to the Digital Divide by recognizing the “5 As”: Access, Applications, Affordability, Accessibility and Assistance. Thus, to bridge or close the Digital Divide, grants must include strategies to invest in programs and projects that address the 5 A challenges. Shelly said that application should indicate which of the 5As the program or projects addresses. Each application submitted must explain how the program or project addresses Accessibility or request assistance in doing so with the application. Access refers to the infrastructure necessary to use broadband to reach applications on the Internet. Applications refer to the content online. Content must be relevant to the lives of the target audience to increase adoption. Affordability refers to the total cost of “being wired”. It includes price of online devices (computers, cell phones, wireless cards) and month service, maintenance, support training and upgrading technology. Accessibility refers to the ease of use people with disabilities have when using equipment and services needed to access the Internet and using websites and applications online. Assistance refers to the provision of technical support services and the training of a skilled workforce to provide technical support services.

7. CSD Website Update

Steve Wittman reported on the CSD website. The Providers said they would like a workshop to be available from CSD on the contractor’s website only. Lloyd Throne said CSD would look into making that happen.

8. EITC Partnerships Panel

Participating in the EITC Partnership Panel were Karen Dickerson from Social Services, Time Reese from Cal/Neva Community Action Partnership, Lois Carson from Community Action Partnership of Riverside, Jenna Churchman from Community Action Marin. Karen talked about the Calworks program that offers temporary assistance for needy people. She said the Calworks program could face budget cuts. It was also reported that over 50% of the people on the cash assistant program are also on workforce. Karen said that people cannot survive on cash assistance only. Other options available are food stamp programs and the earned income tax credit. AB1078 passed which was for asset accumulation and removed asset exclusion for people on welfare. Shelly Hance mentioned that there are a number of flyers available that have information on the ETIC. She said that the one that Social Services had was better than the one put out by the IRS. Tim Reese from Cal/Neva discussed the Cal/Neva Community Action Sharing Hope (CASH) Campaign. This is a statewide project of Cal/Neva’s funded by OCS, with additional support from CSD and out

membership focused upon assisting low-income communities in California to access federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds and utilizing other asset building strategies through the CAA network. In 2006, the IRS reported 2,387,899 EITC returns were filed in California for the Tax Year 2004 with an average refund of \$2,023.00. However, over \$700,000,000 remains on the table unclaimed by more than 300,000 low-income families. Lois Carson from Riverside said that the EITC program was the best anti-poverty program being provided to the low-income families in Riverside County. Lois participated in the National EITC Awareness Day on Jan. 31, 2008. She stated that there is no funding being used for this program; it is strictly volunteers this year. Jenna Churchman from Community Action Marin reported on their asset development program which began two and a half years ago. There are ten tax assistance sites in Marin County, 49 volunteers working on the program, in 2007 they processed 969 tax returns and captured \$950,047 total refunds.

9. Meeting adjourned at 3pm